UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

Dist.
GENERAL

E/CN.3/1991/27
17 December 1990

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

STATISTICAL COMMISSION
Twenty-Sixth Session
February 1991
Item 11 (c) of the provisional agenda*

WORLD BANK INITIATIVES IN THE DESIGN OF PERMANENT INTEGRATED HOUSEHOLD SURVEYS**

Report of the World Bank

SUMMARY

This paper up-dates the Bank's presentation to the twenty-fifth session of the Commission in 1989. The present paper is divided into five sections. The introductory section provides a brief overview of the circumstances which led the Bank to take initiatives in the area of household sample surveys, culminating in the launching of the Living Standards Measurement Study program and the Social Dimensions of Adjustment program. Section II provides information on the evolution of the LSMS program, its implementations at the country level and outlines plans for the immediate future. Section III contains information on the main features of the SDA program and sets out the modalities now in place for implementing integrated multi-topic surveys in countries of Sub-Saharan Africa. The demand driven nature of the program, with its emphasis on collection analysis and use of data, is stressed. Details of how the SDA program is being implemented and co-ordinated at both the international and national levels, are presented. Section IV reports on the wide support the two Bank initiatives enjoy and how these programs relate to the overall goals of strengthening statistical systems. Section V draws the attention of the Commission to specific aspects of the two programs and seeks the Commission's broad support for continued implementation.

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* E/CN.3/1991/1

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I INTRODUCTION

1. Raising living standards, especially those of the poor, has been a central goal of policies in support of economic growth and development. Reliable and timely data are a key requirement in the design of appropriate policies and in monitoring the impact of policies on poor and vulnerable groups. It is difficult to assemble the requisite information even in countries where the need for well-designed and appropriately targeted economic policies is most acute. The breadth and quality of statistical information is typically most limited.

2. There are a number of reasons for the gaps in data. First, the information requirements for policy design and monitoring are broad and encompass a number of specific topic areas conventionally dealt with in separate surveys by Statistical Offices. The measurement of living standards requires information drawn from a number of these topic areas. Integrating the results from single topic surveys is made difficult by differences in sample size and coverage, underlying concepts, and data reference periods. Second, what data are available can be years out of date due to data entry and data processing constraints. These outcomes are caused not only by technical constraints, but also often reflect the absence of a fully articulated conceptual or analytic framework for data and users, which is often the case in developing countries. Analysis is dictated by what data are available rather than by the needs of policy makers. In effect, analysis becomes data supply-driven rather than driven by the demands of national decision makers.

3. It was against this background that the World Bank initiated in 1980 an effort to establish data collection systems based on a set of integrated household surveys under its Living Standards Measurement Study (LSMS). The LSMS had three broad objectives:

(a) The collection of integrated household and community data that captures many different dimensions of living conditions and bears directly on current policy issues - that is, data designed to meet the demands of policy makers;

(b) The provision of these data in a timely fashion;

(c) The development of instruments and analytic tools to support the collection and use of these data in policy making.

4. At its inception, the LSMS had a strong experimental and research orientation. The program focussed on developing survey strategies and specific instruments that would serve as a cost effective means of generating the broad-based information base required for policy analysis, and in developing analytic tools designed to address the most urgent policy questions faced by government decision makers. The viability of undertaking such integrated, multi-topic sample surveys as well as the usefulness of the information for policy analysis was established in 1985/86 when the first LSMS survey was implemented, in Cote d'Ivoire. The Cote d'Ivoire LSMS survey also showed the notable success of LSMS PC-based data management systems that ensure that clean and internally consistent data can be available for processing in a matter of weeks after they are

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obtained in the field. Much of this then innovative work has now become standard practice in a number of developing countries. The Cote d'Ivoire survey was soon followed by LSMS surveys in Peru, Ghana and Mauritania. These surveys established that high quality information could be produced rapidly - within weeks of the conclusion of field work as against several years in the case of traditional surveys - and that this information is tremendously useful in designing policies and in assessing and/or monitoring the impact of policies on poor and vulnerable groups in the population.

5. The 1980's saw a sharp deterioration in the economies of many Sub-Saharan African economies. The restoration of conditions for a resumption of self-sustained growth over the longer term called for the adoption of structural adjustment programs. The early structural adjustment programs largely focused on the objectives of restoring macro-economic equilibrium or reducing incentive distortions. As experience was gained with the workings of adjustment programs, the Bank, the international donor community and governments in the region grew concerned about the social implications of the structural adjustment process. A major concern was the transitional costs of adjustment on vulnerable groups, in particular the reduction in income, employment and access to social services which is experienced when the contractual impact of demand management policies outweighs the expansionary effect of policies directly stimulating economic activity. A second concern was that the structural adjustment process needed to foster the participation of the poor in the process of growth by increasing their access to employment opportunities and income generating assets and raising the productivity of their assets, both human and physical. Designing adjustment programs that address social concerns was hampered by the non-availability of relevant timely and comprehensive data sets. Both national authorities, the donor community and the Bank noted that data gaps were a serious constraint.

6. The statistical situation prevailing in countries of Sub-Saharan Africa has been well summarized by the Economic Commission for Africa in a report to the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers. The report noted: "Data gaps affect every sector and every aspect of the African situation. In the field of demography, even the size and growth rate of the population in some of the African countries cannot be unambiguously determined. In the field of social statistics, there are gaps relating to literacy, school enrollment ratios, the nutritional status of the child and poverty levels."

7. Out of this recognization, in 1987, the Social Dimensions of Adjustment Project (SDA) was launched by the Bank with the support and participation of the UNDP Regional Program for Africa, the African Development Bank and a number of bilateral donors. Its central objective is to help governments in Sub-Saharan Africa integrate social dimensions in their structural adjustment programs and development plans. To this end, the Project provides support to participating governments to: (i) strengthen their capacity to design, implement and follow-up, as an integral part of their structural adjustment programs, comprehensive social policies and programs aimed at reducing poverty by encouraging participatory growth and protecting vulnerable groups; (ii) strengthen the analytical capacity to carry out socio-economic policy studies that assess the evolution of socio-economic conditions of different population groups and provide the basis for designing

specific poverty reduction programs and projects; (iii) strengthen their capacity to develop and maintain adequate information systems to provide the basis for assessing the evolution of living conditions of households through the process of adjustment and development. Thirty governments in Sub-Saharan Africa have requested to participate in the Project, for which the World Bank is the Executing Agency.

8. The SDA Project, described more fully in a subsequent section of this paper, builds upon some of the survey methods tested under the LSMS program and has introduced a number of new and rather different approaches to addressing data gaps.

II LSMS PROGRAM

Progress

9. The Commission will recall that in an earlier paper, presented at the Twenty-Fifth Session, the LSMS program was fully described. This paper briefly reviews recent developments and provides a description of how the program has evolved. It goes on to indicate what modifications have been introduced in the light of experience to date. Plans for the future are also presented. Given the interest shown by the Commission on issues of co-ordination with other on-going programs, the paper describes the arrangements now in place to ensure fuller co-ordination.

10. The LSMS experience thus far has been very favorable. The data collected have proven to be of high quality and have become available within months of the completion of field operations. LSMS has also proven to be well suited to generating data for both operational and research purposes on a wide variety of topics such as: the willingness of households to pay for medical care and the distributional impact of user fees; determination of school enrollment ratios and the quality of education; determinants of malnutrition, household savings behavior as well as more general work on poverty levels, inequality and characteristics of the poor. The extensive methodological work undertaken, along with the analysis of the data, have been reported in the LSMS Working Papers. LSMS is recognized, both within and outside the Bank, as an effective instrument for policy analysis and program design. The survey and data processing strategies embodied in the LSMS program have proven to be cost effective and appropriate to the conditions in countries in the different regions of the world. This is reflected in the demand for LSMS-related surveys by an increasing number of developing countries.

11. As seen in Table 1, six LSMS Surveys have been put in the field, and there are plans to begin three more in the next few months. The Cote d'Ivoire Living Standards Survey (Enquete Permanente Aupres Des Menages) began in February, 1985, and by 1989 four years of data had been collected. The Peru Living Standards Survey (Encuesta Nacional de Hogares Sobre Medicio de Niveles de Vida) went into the field in July, 1985 and collected one year of data. A follow-up survey limited to households in Lima has just been completed. Further surveys in Peru are now under consideration. Field work for the Ghana Living Standards Survey began in September, 1987, and so far two years of data have been collected. The Mauritanian

TABLE 1: LSMS Surveys

I. Data Now Available	Country	Years of Data Collection
	Cote d'Ivoire 1/	1985, 1986, 1987, 1988
	Peru	1985-86, 1990
	Ghana 1/	1987-88, 1988-89
	Mauritania 1/	1987-88
	Bolivia	1988, 1989, ongoing
	Jamaica	1988, 1989, ongoing

II. Soon to be Implemented	Country	Expected Date in Field
	Morocco	Fall, 1990
	Pakistan	Fall, 1990
	Laos	Winter, 1991

III. Discussions Underway:	Latin America/Caribbean	Africa/Middle East	Asia
	Brazil	Algeria	Vietnam
	Peru	Jordan	
	El Salvador	Poland	
	Guatemala		
	Trinidad and Tobago		
	Venezuela		

1/ After the implementation of the initial LSMS survey, this country joined the SDA program.

Living Standards Survey (Enquete Permanente sur les Conditions de Vie des Menages) became operational in December, 1987. The Bolivian survey (Encuesta Integrada de Hogares) began in May, 1988. Finally, the Jamaican Survey of Living Conditions began operations in August 1988. With the introduction, in 1987 of the SDA program in Africa, the LSMS activities in Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, and Mauritania was absorbed into the national SDA programs in these countries to be used as inputs into measuring the social impact of their adjustment programs.

12. LSMS surveys have been developed for a much wider range of applications and with more flexible administrative structures in recent years. LSMS projects in Pakistan and in Jamaica provide good examples of these developments.

13. The Pakistan Integrated Household Survey (PIHS), which will be implemented by the Federal Bureau of Statistics, and the Statistics Division, covers 4800 households with half the sample covering urban areas, and the other half rural. The survey has a fully independent administrative structure, and is designed to complement rather than replace ongoing income/expenditure and labor force surveys, which are executed annually by the Federal Bureau of Statistics. Including initial analyses, and setting up costs, the survey will cost approximately US $1 million, and is funded jointly by UNDP and USAID. It has been coordinated closely with the NHSCP program in Pakistan (shortly to be completed), which focussed on improving the coverage and organization of the existing system of household surveys. The PIHS household questionnaire includes the core demographic, expenditure, and income modules, as well as the full complement of additional sectoral modules - i.e. employment, health, child nutrition, education, family planning, housing and infrastructure, migration, and savings and credit. A new feature of the survey is that - for the first time in a nationwide survey in Pakistan - both a male and a female interviewer will visit the household, each with their own part of the questionnaire. It is anticipated that this approach will provide a much better picture of the status of women in Pakistan than was available before. The survey is designed to address a full range of policy questions of immediate relevance in Pakistan, including but not limited to determinates of school enrollments and returns to education, labor participation and levels of unemployment, willingness to pay for health care and education, poverty incidence and characteristics of the poor, determinates of child malnutrition, women's contribution to the economy, and determinates of household savings behavior.

14. The Jamaica Survey of Living Conditions, implemented by the Statistical Institute of Jamaica has been set up entirely differently to take advantage of the existing statistical infrastructure in Jamaica. The LSMS modules have been combined with quarterly rounds of the annual Labor Force Survey and typically cover a sub-sample of 2000 households. There is no independent administrative structure and no separate teams of interviewers. Only selected modules are included in the survey - core demographic and expenditure modules, health, education, child nutrition, housing and infrastructure, and family planning. The health and family planning modules have been expanded significantly to address specific concerns. Because of the modest size of the questionnaire and coordination with ongoing surveys, the overall cost of the two-year project is only US $50,000. The survey was financed out of the monitoring component of a World Bank structural adjustment loan, and data has primarily been used to evaluate and monitor components of the

Governments Human Resource Development Program, which includes such elements as the national food stamp program, food subsidies, a school feeding program, and text book programs.

15. Additional surveys are due to go into the field during 1990-1991. The first, the Moroccan Living Standards Survey (Enquete sur le Niveau de Vie des Menages au Maroc) began preliminary field work in the spring of 1990. The Pakistan Integrated Household Survey is scheduled for the fall, 1990. The third is the Laos Living Standards Survey, scheduled to begin field work in late 1991.

16. During the last two years, several more countries have indicated interest in undertaking LSMS surveys. Discussions are now underway in numerous countries (Algeria, Brazil, El Salvador, Guatemala, Jordan, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, Venezuela, and Vietnam). In addition, preliminary discussions have been held with the national statistical offices of a number of East and Central European countries on the issue of adaption of the LSMS-based analytic approach in the Bank's project and sector work in these countries. Initial reviews and assessments of the survey capabilities in Poland have been completed. Further discussions are scheduled with government officials regarding the use of the LSMS analytic approach for research and policy work.

17. The applicability of the LSMS approach - use of integrated multi-topic questionnaires, PC-based field data entry systems, the use of data in an analytic and policy oriented manner - in a variety of country situations with differing statistical capacities has demonstrated the flexibility of the program in meeting national needs.

LSMS Modification in Light of Past Experience

18. Drawing upon the experience gained to-date, the LSMS program is now oriented towards meeting several goals: (i) promoting the LSMS approach in additional countries; (ii) use of the data generated in Bank and country sector work and lending operations, particularly poverty focused programs; (iii) capacity and institution building in member countries for conducting surveys and in undertaking analysis.

19. LSMS is increasingly working within existing national survey structures and focusing on modification of the overall national survey programs to suit the particular needs of the country. For instance, in Morocco, in the light of the priority given by the government to improving adult literacy, LSMS, in collaboration with local educational experts, has added and expanded the literacy and educational modules. In addition, the community questionnaire has been expanded to capture information on health and education providers. At the request of the government, the survey will include a full-fledged household consumption module, instead of the standard simplified household expenditure section contained in the basic LSMS questionnaire. In Pakistan, the questionnaire has been reformulated to collect additional data on the role of women. In addition, the energy module was expanded to collect additional data to support an ongoing USAID-funded research project on the energy sector in Pakistan.

20. The LSMS approach has also been used as a tool for program evaluation and monitoring. In Bolivia, LSMS-generated data have been used to evaluate the impact of the Emergency Social Fund (ESF). The evaluation results were taken into account in the design of follow-up projects funded under the ESF program. The Government of Jamaica in collaboration with the Bank used the results from the survey to prepare a report analyzing Jamaica's food stamp program and the assessment of the Human Resources Development Program. LSMS data will also be used to underpin the Jamaican Safe Motherhood Initiative. LSMS has added an expanded education module to the standard questionnaire. The additional data will help address issues related to the quality of education issues. The expanded module includes sections to be answered by school principals and teachers, as well as testing of student achievement. Similarly, an expanded health module has been added with separate components for primary and secondary facilities and private providers. In Trinidad and Tobago, at the request of the government, LSMS is working on the monitoring and evaluation component of the Youth Training and Partnership Programme. The potential for LSMS involvement in Guatemala and El Salvador stems from the need to include monitoring mechanisms in the design of programs to be funded under the proposed social development funds in these countries.

Future Directions

21. In the next two years, LSMS work will focus on: (1) refinements and diversification of the LSMS survey system, and (2) expanded research activities. These activities will pave the way for LSMS to ultimately move away from the mechanical aspects of data collection. Increasingly, LSMS surveys will be further strengthened by the addition of modules which address special policy concerns.

22. Based on the LSMS experience gained in the 1980's, new questionnaires are being developed. LSMS will continue to integrate its work with other ongoing surveys in the countries; there is a move toward developing an appropriate master sample frame for use in future surveys. Further increasing flexibility in LSMS survey design, to allow for greater adaption to particular country needs in terms of the country's socio-economic characteristics and the policy questions it faces, is a major priority. Concurrently, refinements in computer software and hardware systems, to allow for easier and faster implementation of surveys will also be a high priority activity.

23. Emphasis is being placed on developing analytic research capability at the national level through: (1) training and joint research undertakings with local counterparts in the countries in which LSMS surveys are done; and (2) undertaking new and innovative research at the World Bank in Washington, D.C.

Coordination With Other Agencies and Donors

24. LSMS continues to work within the existing survey structure and in close cooperation with the national statistical offices as well as the planning and sector ministries which are the eventual users of the survey data. During the initial stage of its involvement in a country, LSMS routinely establishes links with the local UNDP offices and representatives of other major donors. In countries where the National Household Survey Capability Program (NHSCP) is

operational, LSMS collaborates with NHSCP representatives. In the Latin America and the Caribbean Region (LAC), LSMS maintains contact with the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. Joint LSMS-NHSCP missions have been carried out in Jamaica and Bolivia. In the case of Laos, LSMS is collaborating with the Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific. UNDP funding support for the Laos and Pakistan surveys represents an example of further collaboration. In Morocco, UNDP provided funding to the National Statistics Office for finalizing the survey questionnaire. USAID is involved in the LSMS work in Bolivia and Pakistan. Every effort is being made to avoid duplication between NHSCP and LSMS programs. To the extent possible, the two programs are operated at the country level as complementary programs.

Dissemination

25. The LSMS dissemination effort has resulted in the sharing of the LSMS experience with a widening set of interested parties. It has also assisted in strengthening collaboration internally with other parts of the World Bank and externally with the LSMS countries, researchers, the U.N. and specialized agencies that work with the LSMS. The dissemination program is largely mounted through the LSMS Working Paper Series, seminars for Bank staff, LSMS presentations to technical and senior staff in LSMS countries, presentations at international conferences, and the publication of LSMS NOTES - a newsletter highlighting the policy relevance of LSMS-related findings. LSMS Working Papers are routinely mailed to all agencies and national statistical offices working with LSMS.

III SOCIAL DIMENSIONS OF ADJUSTMENT

Framework

26. As noted earlier, the Social Dimensions of Adjustment (SDA) program covers the countries of Sub-Saharan Africa. This Bank initiative was launched with the support of the UNDP Regional Program for Africa, the African Development Bank and a number of bilateral donors. The statistical component of the SDA program has been developed as a demand driven program designed to meet user needs, and builds upon the Bank's earlier experience with integrated, multi-topic household surveys.

27. The SDA Project, launched in 1987, operates at two levels, regional and country. The regional unit of the SDA program at Bank headquarters has the task of developing guidelines on the measurement and analysis of the socio-economic effects of structural adjustment policies, and in particular how such policies affect living standards at the household level. In this process, it has developed a set of technical instruments that will help national policy-makers and planners gain a better understanding of the consequences of macro-economic policies on the welfare of different household groups in their respective countries. These instruments cover both policy analysis, as well as outputs relating to the design of surveys which will collect the necessary data to drive the analysis. They have been designed to serve as flexible prototypes which can be easily adapted and modified to meet specific national requirements and capabilities.

28. The underlying framework on which the SDA project is based is described in a Bank document entitled Making Adjustment Work for the Poor: A framework for Policy Reform in Africa, World Bank (1989). The conceptual framework provides the necessary economic rationale for empirical work to be both consistent across countries and helpful for policy design. It goes on to outline an empirical framework for data collection and analysis. Finally, it explores the major policy issues that must be faced by governments in integrating social dimensions in the design of their structural adjustment programs and development plans.

Hierarchical Information Systems

29. The monitoring and evaluation of the socio-economic effects of adjustment programs on different sub-groups of a country's population is, by any measure, a difficult undertaking. This task requires a firm conceptual foundation and a well delineated methodology. This has been developed and reflects the need to take into account the effects of adjustment and other macro-economic changes as they impact on households. The changes are transmitted through markets, and the social and economic infrastructure - the meso economy - to the micro or household level. A combination of changes in both markets and infrastructure determine how the individual household or enterprise reacts to the new economic conditions. The overriding objective is to establish how the macro-economic processes initiated under adjustment programs ultimately affect households. The conceptual framework recognizes that in order to do this, data need to be analyzed at the same three levels of socio-economic activity. Knowledge about each level is necessary if policy makers are to know what changes are occurring, to which groups over time, as well as, providing the ingredients necessary to explore how these changes have resulted.

30. As a first step, the SDA reviews the current national statistical information system in each country to identify existing gaps and deficiencies. From the perspective of the SDA project, this information is viewed as critical to identifying components of a hierarchical information system corresponding to the macro-, meso-, and micro-levels of analysis. These reviews indicate that some data on some of the macro- and meso-variables are already collected for policy formulation in the countries of Sub-Saharan Africa. But data on the operation of micro-level units which emphasize households are often scarce. The reviews have examined how these data fit within the overall framework of a national information system.

31. Table 2 presents a simple outline of a hierarchical information system. It has five columns and three rows. Column 1 simply represents the three levels of economic and social activity at the macro-, meso, and micro-levels. Correspondingly, column 2 indicates the decision-making focus and, in particular, it shows how macro-economic policy is transmitted through effects at the meso level via markets and infrastructure before having an impact on individual and household welfare. Columns 3, 4, and 5, set out a distinction between analytical methods on the one hand and the data collection tools on the other. The columns refer to "analysis" (column 3), "constructs" (column 4), and "data" (column 5).

Table 2: A Hierarchical Information System for the SDA

(1)	(2) SDA Focus	(3) Analysis	(4) Constructs	(5) Data
Macro	Policy *Monetary, fiscal and exchange rate policy	*Macroeconomic models: -Aggregate (RMSM) -Multisectoral (CGE)	*National accounts *SAMs *CPI *BOP *Macro-indicators	*Economic, trade, financial statistics *Social and demographic statistics
Meso	Effects *Markets *Economic and social infrastructure	*Sectoral and institutional studies *CGE *Multimarket models	*SAMs *Food balance sheets *Sectoral quanitiy and price indices	*Community survey *Price statistics *Production statistics
Micro	Impact *Individual and household	*Household models and analysis	*Poverty profiles *Social indicators	*Household surveys: -economic -social -anthropometric -demographic

Source: Structural Adjustment and Poverty: A Conceptual Empirical and Policy Framework, SDA Unit, Africa Region, Report No. 8393-AFR, World Bank, 1990; p. 86.

32. Taken all together, the complete information system outlined in the table is extensive, but two points should be emphasized. The first point is that while in some African countries, elements of this hierarchical system are already in place and are being partially used, many countries lack an adequate system. The second point to note is that identified gaps need to be filled. Filling all of the voids is not always within the mandate of the SDA, but by helping establish the hierarchical system SDA can help ensure effective liaison and coordination among relevant agencies and departments of a government so that the gaps are filled by the most competent authority.

The SDA Household and Community Survey Program

33. The main thrust of the SDA project's statistical development program has been the development of a set of interlinked survey instruments which may be applied, in suitably modified form, in any of the participating SDA countries. These are:

- the SDA Priority Household Survey

- the SDA Integrated Household Survey, and

- the SDA Community level surveys.

34. The SDA Priority Survey (PS) is used as a means of rapid collection of priority information to identify target groups during the process of adjustment. The PS is a survey designed to provide information on what is occurring without necessarily concerning itself with why. Diagnosis is the role of the integrated survey. When repeated in subsequent years, the PS takes on a monitoring role and is used to measure changes in key variables over time. A relatively large sample is recommended to countries to enable presentation of these results at a relatively disaggregated level.

35. As a rapid identification device, the PS contains certain key features. First, given that the principal aim is to provide rapid results, the questionnaire is limited in length. Essentially, the survey is concerned with the collection of information to construct key socio-economic indicators. These indicators are then used to identify changes in the circumstances faced by household groups and to provide "early warning" signals and to flag potential social problems promptly, so that remedial action can be taken. In order to keep the questionnaire short, the survey aims to establish generally no more than four to five indicators per subject area. The topics covered are: health, education, housing, access to amenities, migration, agricultural production, non-farm activities, household expenditure and incomes, household assets, nutrition and employment. By linking the details canvassed, it is possible to ensure more rapid processing and simplify analysis, all of which helps to reduce the lag between data collection and the production of survey results.

36. Secondly, the use of shorter questionnaires allows for an expansion of the sample size. Not only can the PS sample be made larger in absolute terms, but the design can also be made more efficient by reducing the adverse effects of clustering through an increase in the number of clusters. A consequence of this is that there is an opportunity to identify much more precisely those household groups most affected by adjustment and hence to strengthen the quality of cross-sectional analysis.

37. Thirdly, for the PS to act as an effective monitoring device it must not only be concerned with cross-sectional analysis but also with the detection of trends. Hence, it is a survey that will be administered regularly, in most instances annually.

38. The SDA Integrated Survey (IS) aims at providing a complete coverage of the full range of topics needed to better understand the mechanisms of the adjustment process at the household level. The topics include: the size and composition of each household; health; education; employment status of each household member; access to amenities and services; valuations of durable, productive and financial assets; productive activities, both agricultural and non-agricultural; income, transfers and savings; and food and non-food consumption and other expenditures.

Because the survey is concerned with establishing causal relationships between macroeconomic policies and their impact at the household level, the questionnaire is necessarily more complex than that of the PS.

39. The survey design takes into account the lessons learned from the LSMS experience in Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana and Mauritania. Building upon that experience, the IS is focused on institutional strengthening which includes the objective of ensuring that the data generated through the IS are processed and analyzed in the countries themselves. Regarding the survey design, the survey questionnaire will normally be administered in two rounds - a repeat visit to each household - with an interval of two weeks between visits. It is possible that in certain countries, a larger number of visits to the household may be proposed so as to reduce the length of the recall period for expenditure and consumption data. The different sections of the questionnaires are evenly apportioned between all the visits.

40. The SDA Community Surveys are intended to provide information on activities at the meso level. As already mentioned, one of the distinguishing features of the hierarchical information systems advocated by the SDA program is that it will provide data that will allow for the analysis of the linkages existing between the macro, meso and micro levels. The household surveys will be among the main sources of information on activities at the micro level, but these have to be coupled to data generated at the meso level. This is the function of the Community Surveys.

41. There is relatively little experience on the use of community surveys as a tool for gathering data. Although community surveys have been carried out under a number of programs, the results have in many cases been disappointing. This may be due to the fact that there has been, as yet relatively little methodological development. It has also been the case that, when coupled with a household survey program, the bulk of the resources and time have tended to go to the household survey at the cost of the community survey. One of the more important programs in the 1970s and early 1980s to use community level data was the World Fertility Survey. This work has been continued by the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) program. Community data have also been collected under the LSMS program and useful lessons can be learned from these experiences in both Africa and, more recently, in the Caribbean. The SDA program, while drawing upon past experience, will test alternative designs and approaches.

42. Under the SDA program, the collection of community data assumes a more important role. The first objective of the community survey is to provide community level data on prices and infrastructure which can be easily and readily integrated with the data collected through the household surveys. This will make it possible to study the effects of changes at the meso level on household behavior and welfare, i.e. the micro-meso linkages. Community data will therefore be collected at the same time as the household data and from the same communities through a Community Module of the IS. The second objective of the community survey program is to collect information on changes over time and to link these to macro-level policies, and thus throw light on the macro-meso linkages. This objective will be achieved by using stand - alone Community Surveys. Data collection for IS, PS and CS will be a parallel and a consolidated field activity, with this integration continuing through processing and analysis to provide an integrated system of individual, household, and community level data.

Integration of the SDA Survey Program Into Ongoing Survey Activities

43. In suggesting the above hierarchical information system, the SDA is drawing on a number of concepts on statistical priorities and strategies originally proposed in the World Bank's Sub-Saharan Africa: From Crisis to Sustainable Growth. These include supporting statistical systems that are demand-driven, making use of light, easy-to-implement methodologies, and advocating programs that are not excessively demanding on national statistical resources. Most importantly, results must be fed directly to national policy makers with the objective, in this case, of providing ready information to gauge the effects of macro-economic policies on different segments of the population. In presenting the SDA survey program, three essential concepts are stressed: flexibility, coordination and institutional support.

Flexibility:

44. The survey program is intended to serve as a model which, if implemented in its entirety, would satisfy the majority of information needs expressed in the SDA Analysis Plans. But the model is one that can be freely adapted or modified to meet an individual country's needs and to fit in with its available resources. Thus, for instance, if a country has an interest in updating weights used in the compilation of consumer price indices, it may wish to undertake the IS in the first year and expand the expenditure section to take this objective into account. Similarly on the methodological side, if a country already has an established permanent cadre of field enumerators and supervisors, it would not be expected to replace these with mobile teams 1/ unless it specifically wanted to. It must be further stressed that the SDA survey program is not intended to be an imposed program which is to supersede or replace existing surveys, but one which will be tailored to fit in and merge with other survey activities.

Coordination:

45. An important consideration is how such a full data collection program can be integrated into existing survey operations of a national statistical office. The SDA program recognizes that statistical resources are limited in most African countries and there are multiple and potentially conflicting demands for these scarce resources. It is important therefore that there is close coordination at the country level to ensure that resources are effectively and efficiently used to carry out programs that are set up in response to clearly identified national needs. It is for this reason that the SDA program insists on the creation of national User Committees, representing the institutions drawn from various ministries and other parts of the public sector which will be influential in defining data collection priorities for statistical offices. These User Committees are not just window dressing but are meant to play an active role in formulating statistical programs that are indeed responsive to national demands and priorities.

1/ The SDA emphasizes the use of highly trained, well supervised field enumerators who are mobile. This is in contrast to the more traditional use of enumerators who are at fixed points.

46. The SDA program also recognizes the importance of coordination at the international level between technical agencies and donors that are supporting statistical programs in Africa. The SDA program has taken a number of steps to enhance coordination. Joint technical missions have been undertaken to countries with the UN National Household Survey Capability Program (NHSCP), the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) as well as with other bilateral and multilateral technical and donor agencies. Liaison also extends to the area of technical assistance and support. In the data processing field in particular, it is important that countries are not being pressed to take on inappropriate or conflicting data processing systems. The SDA has established close links therefore with such agencies as the International Statistical Programs Center (ISPC) of the US Bureau of the Census which provides African Countries with considerable assistance in the field of census data processing, to see whether these same systems can be adapted and applied to household surveys of the type proposed under the SDA survey program.

47. The following example illustrates how the SDA's concerns with flexibility and coordination have been made to work in practice. In Ghana, a four year survey program has been elaborated by the Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) with the active support and advice of the SDA, NHSCP and ECA. The program is, to a considerable degree, modelled on the SDA survey program described above, yet at the same time it displays an important national identity of its own. Under this program, an IS (combined with community level data collection) is to be carried out in the first year. However, because of a national concern to revise the weights used for the computation of the consumer price indices, special attention is being paid to the expenditure and consumption sections which are being expanded accordingly. In year two, the GSS intends to implement a PS - but with a slightly expanded section on labor and employment which will take the place of a dedicated labor force survey. In year three, a PS will similarly be undertaken but with a special focus on informal sector activities of the household. This will be followed by a full evaluation of the program at which point the survey program for the next two years (which will include a population census) will be determined.

48. Overall coordination has been further enhanced by the creation of the SDA Statistical Subcommittee which reports to the interagency SDA Working Group. The Statistical Subcommittee, which includes representatives of the key specialized international agencies and donors, meets regularly to review issues of methodology and coordination. In 1990 two meetings were held, one at the UNDP headquarters in New York and the other hosted by the Statistical Office of the European Community in Luxembourg. The subcommittee provides a useful forum for regular technical exchanges between agencies. In November 1989, the SDA also organized a three day technical inter-agency meeting at which the full SDA data collection and analysis program was presented and reviewed. Also the SDA project staff have held periodic technical meetings with all the major agencies promoting statistical development programs including meetings organized by the ECA, FAO, UNESCO, EEC, and the UN Statistical Office. It should also be noted that national statisicians and analysts have participated in a number of meetings at which the various aspects of the SDA program have been discussed.

49. Institutional Support: The long-term objective of the SDA program is to help countries establish viable and sustainable programs that are cost effective and that can be implemented with their own resources in the longer term. To this end, the SDA project also includes a regional training program designed for nationals who will be responsible for the implementation of the various components of the SDA national projects and executed, wherever possible, through regional African training institutions. On the statistical side, the training program is aimed at strengthening national capabilities to carry out the SDA survey program, and training modules have been prepared based on the methodological work that has been developed by the SDA. The SDA training courses are essentially short-term, very practical in content, and are built around the implementation or analysis of an actual SDA survey. In developing this training program, the SDA project has been working closely with such agencies as Statistics Canada and the Munich Center for Advanced Training in Applied Statistics. In this, as in other areas, it is important not to be duplicating efforts. Therefore, the training program is being developed in close liaison with the ECA's Statistical Training Programme for Africa.

Implementation of the SDA Survey Program at the Country Level

50. At the country level, the SDA Project supports, in close collaboration with the World Bank country teams, the development and implementation of a Country Operational Agenda. The starting point is the preparation of a country assessment paper containing an initial poverty profile of the population and identification of key policy issues, based on existing information. The objective of a national SDA Project is then to promote macro-economic and sectoral policy planning and management in the country, the implementation of social action programs, and the strengthening of institutions responsible for social policy and program design and follow up. While striving to promote these three components in each country, the SDA Project Unit takes a flexible and pragmatic approach based on the status of the policy dialogue between the government and the Bank on the scope of the country poverty reduction strategy. The three components will consist of various elements:

i. The policy planning and management component will include the design and follow-up of macro-economic and sectoral strategies aimed at growth with poverty reduction; the design and follow-up of core public expenditure programs to benefit the poorer segments of the population, and to be protected in the framework of public expenditure restructuring programs; the promotion of processes aimed at fostering the participation of community groups and Non-Governmental Organizations in the design and follow-up of socio-economic policies and programs;

ii. The social action programs component will include the design and follow-up of specific priority interventions aimed at protecting vulnerable groups in the course of adjustment; the design and follow-up of specific programs and projects to foster the participation of the poor in socio-economic activity, in particular through the promotion of community-level initiatives in the areas of small-scale income-generating activities and small-scale social infrastructure;

iii. The institutional development component will include the strengthening of institutions responsible for socio-economic policy formulation, in particular for the integration of distributional and employment impacts in macro-economic models; the strengthening of government capacity in the areas of social policy planning and programming, policy analysis of social dimensions of adjustment, and development of statistical data bases for assessing the evolution of living conditions of different population groups during adjustment.

51. Apart from the development of the conceptual and analytical frameworks, the SDA's activities at the country level have been directed at the appraising of projects. To date, projects have been appraised in 17 countries and the focus is now switching to consolidation and implementation. At present, SDA initiatives, which are mounted either as free standing operations or together with other related operations, are underway in Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritania, Mozambique, Somalia, Senegal, Sao Tome-Principe, Tanzania, and Uganda. Survey activities have continued in Ghana, Mauritania, and Cote d'Ivoire. Data gathered through these surveys have been analyzed, published and are extensively used at the national level.

52. In the course of the next year SDA initiatives will be appraised in Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Congo, Egypt, Gabon, Kenya, Niger, Sudan, Togo, and Zambia. Other countries will be added to the program if the dialogue now in progress with the governments of Angola, Ethiopia and Rwanda result in these countries becoming formal participants in the SDA program.

53. As far as the SDA survey schedule is concerned, there are now 10 countries which have made firm commitments to start implementing surveys in the Bank's current fiscal year. The survey program for these countries is presented in the following table.

Table 3: SDA Survey Program

Country	Survey Type	Field Work Start	Field Work Finish	Report
Chad	Priority Survey	Dec. 90	Feb. 91	Apr. 91
Cote d'Ivoire	Priority Survey	Nov. 90	Feb. 91	Apr. 91
The Gambia	Priority Survey	Dec. 90	Feb. 91	Apr. 91
Ghana	Integrated Survey	Jan. 91	Dec. 91	Jul. 91
Guinea	Priority Survey	Nov. 90	Feb. 91	Apr. 91
Guinea-Bissau	Priority Survey	Oct. 90	Jan. 91	Mar. 91
Madagascar	Integrated Survey	Jan. 91	Dec. 91	Mar. 91
Malawi	Income/Expenditure	Jul. 90	Jun. 91	Oct. 91
Mauritania	Priority Survey	Jan. 91	Apr. 91	Jun. 91
Senegal	Income/Expenditure	Nov. 90	Oct. 91	May 91

IV CONCLUDING REMARKS

54. The LSMS and SDA programs have further evolved over the past few years. The conceptual and analylitical frameworks have been refined to reflect country needs. The survey strategies and instruments have been tested in a wide variety of country circumstances in the different regions of the world. The feasibility of implementing multi-topic integrated household surveys which are cost effective has been tested and has proven to be viable. The ability to generate survey results rapidly, using micro-computing technologies has been an important feature of the strategies pursued. These have been successful. There now exists a broad concensus that the two Bank initiatives represent a significant step forward in addressing statistical concerns. That concensus exists at various levels. At the national level many governments, by embarking on integrated surveys, have endorsed the initiatives. Regional support has been forthcoming as well as evidenced by the strong endorsement expressed by the Organisation of African Unity and by national representatives at other international conferences. The global level support given by funding agencies, both multi-lateral and bilateral, is also indicative of the support the two programs enjoy. The technical and methodological inputs that the Bank has received from the UN specialised agencies constitute another major element of support for what is emerging as a significant set of international initiatives which in the longer term will result in strengthening national statistical capabilities. The demand driven nature of these programs will influence the overall determination of statistical priorities and better reflect user needs thus making statistical outputs more relevant. In the longer term these developments are likely to enhance the role of information systems in policy formulation and additionally lead to the channelling of adequate resources for statistical programs. It should be further noted that the Bank's initiatives are consistent with and supportive of the statistical agenda outlined in the Bank's recent report: Sub-Saharan Africa: From Crisis to Sustainable Growth.

55. The Bank is of the view that implementation of the SDA and LSMS programs will call for strong co-operative endeavours at all levels. The Bank proposes to continue its interactions with national governments, donors and the specialised agencies. Additionally, the Bank will promote the methodologies it has developed in a flexible manner in the different regions of the world. To this end, it will attempt to disseminate as widely as possible the technical documentation now in place for use by member governments. In addition the Bank will continue to refine and modify the instruments in the light of the experience gained through implementation of the two programs. At the same time it will continue to seek imputs from other entities, including the Statistical Commission.

V. POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

56. The Commission is invited to take note of:

(a) The progress achieved by the Bank in promoting the Living Standards Measurement Survey in a growing number of countries that have recognized the value of multi-topic integrated household surveys as a powerful tool for gathering socio-economic data.

(b) The LSMS survey instruments have undergone further refinement and adaptation in a variety of country situations, and offer the means for generating relevant data on a timely basis through the use of innovative data processing techniques.

(c) Active co-ordination between LSMS and other international survey programs, notably the NHSCP, has resulted in enhancing work at the country level and has contributed to a reduction in duplicative efforts.

(d) The SDA program has finalized a comprehensive conceptual framework and analysis plan. The program has further evolved the strategy for gathering data through a program of three surveys - the Priority Survey, the Integrated Survey and the Community Level Survey. Thirty-two (32) Sub-Saharan countries have joined the program. Three countries have conducted surveys to date. In the coming year additional countries will commence survey operations. The programs in each country have had strong user involvement reflecting the demand driven nature of the program. The emphasis placed on capacity building through a sizable training effort and commitments by national governments, will contribute in making the program sustainable beyond its initial phase.

(e) The extensive consultations with national users, international and specialized agencies, multi-lateral and bilateral donors, have resulted in vastly enhanced co-ordination. Joint missions, the technical deliberations in the Statistical Sub-Committee (made up of the specialized agencies and donor government statistical offices) has resulted in building a consensus on the goals, and implementation strategies, which characterize the SDA.

(f) The SDA now enjoys the financial and technical support of a large number of the main multi-lateral and bilateral donor agencies and has the active collaboration of a number of specialized UN agencies.

(g) The Bank's two initiatives have received enthusiastic support from member governments through adoption of the methodologies developed under the two programs.

57. The Commission is invited to comment and endorse:

(a) The methodological and design aspects of the household survey programs which the Bank has evolved, with the strong emphasis on the collection of integrated data, the use of micro-computers to improve both the quality and timeliness of data, provide countries with a cost effective approach for addressing their needs for data. The Commission may wish to indicate how countries can be encouraged to take advantage of the opportunity offered by the Bank.

(b) Considerable progress has been achieved in co-ordination of the Bank's programs with those of other agencies including the UN's NHSCP. The Commission may wish to endorse these efforts and indicate how such co-ordination can be further enhanced.

(c) The Bank's initiatives directed at promoting the development of sustainable statistical capabilities for gathering data and its use now enjoy wide support. These initiatives are important and significant contributions to overall development of statistical services in member countries, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa. The Commission may wish to offer suggestions on what further steps would be appropriate in furtherance of these goals.

(d) The Bank's leadership role in marshalling donor support for the goals of the SDA program have resulted in increased flows of assistance. The Commission may wish to comment on how these efforts can be further strengthened.

(e) The Bank will disseminate as widely as possible the manuals, technical documentation, and software that have been developed to all interested countries to further promote the adoption of cost effective survey practices that meet country needs. The Commission may wish to endorse this effort and encourage other agencies to adopt several features of the Bank's programs in their respective survey initiatives.

58. The Commission may wish to invite the Bank to report further on its survey initiatives at the twenty seventh session.

UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.3/1991/28
28 December 1990

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

STATISTICAL COMMISSION
Twenty-sixth session
4-13 February 1991
Item 13 (a) of the provisional
agenda*

PROGRAMME QUESTIONS: PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

Overall review of the statistical work of the international organizations

Report of the Secretary-General

SUMMARY

The present report contains an overall review of the statistical activities of the United Nations system, the World Tourism Organization and the Inter-American Statistical Institute for the period January 1988 to December 1989. Wherever possible, the information is given by major achievements, including new activities, activities cancelled and activities modified significantly.

* E/CN.3/1991/1.

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INTRODUCTION

1. The present report was prepared in response to a request of the Statistical Commission at its twenty-fifth session and covers the period January 1988 to December 1989. 1/ The report contains a description of the progress made in the statistical activities of the United Nations system, the World Tourism Organization (WTO) and the Inter-American Statistical Institute (IASI) during the 1988-1989 biennium. Wherever possible, the information is given by major achievements, including new activities, activities cancelled and activities modified significantly.

2. The work of the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat is described under two organizational headings (see sects. I.A and I.B below). In carrying out its responsibility for the provision of technical co-operation in statistics, the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development has been relying on the Statistical Office for substantive support, in accordance with the arrangements for collaboration that have existed for some time between the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs and the Department of Technical Co-operation for Development. Additional information on the work of the Statistical Office is contained in the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Updated information on the work of the Statistical Office" (E/CN.3/1991/30) and in the note by the Secretary-General on the proposed work programme of the Statistical Office for the biennium 1992-1993 and information on the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 (E/CN.3/1991/31; see also A/45/6 (Prog. 24)).

I. UNITED NATIONS

A. Department of International Economic and Social Affairs: Statistical Office

1. Major achievements, including new activities

(a) Subprogramme 1. Development of concepts and methods

3. A preliminary draft of the revised System of National Accounts (SNA) (including 14 draft chapters and three annexes) has been completed. The first drafts of two handbooks on national accounting - Environmental Accounting and Input/Output Tables - have been completed; and outlines on two others - SNA Application in Countries in Transition and National Accounts Compilation and Reconciliation - have been prepared. System of Balances of the National Economy (MPS) (vols. I and II) was issued. International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC), Rev.3, and Central Product Classification (CPC) were submitted for printing.

4. Classification by Broad Economic Categories, defined in terms of SITC, Rev.3, was issued. A technical report describing customs areas of the world was also issued. A draft manual on the construction of unit value and quantum indexes in external trade was prepared. Work continued on developing commodity indexes for SITC, Rev.3, with drafts being completed for sections 5 and parts of 6 and 7. Work continued on describing the methods used in compiling the United Nations price indexes for external trade.

5. The following publications were issued concerning the development of statistics and indicators on the situation of women: Methods of Measuring Women's Participation and Production in the Informal Sector, Handbook for National Statistical Data Bases on Women and Development, and sections of 1989 World Survey on the Role of Women in Development, "The informal sector: development of statistics and indicators" (with INSTRAW) and "Statistics and indicators on women's participation in the economy". The following working paper drafts for development of statistics on women in the informal sector were issued in English and French (with INSTRAW): "Handbook on the compilation of statistics on women in the informal sector in industry, trade and services in Africa" and "Synthesis of pilot studies on the compilation of statistics on women in the informal sector in industry, trade and services in four African countries". Technical reports were prepared and issued as working papers on two proposed new publications, "Prospectus and technical report on the preparation of a new United Nations publication 'Women and social trends - 1988'" and "Feasibility of preparing a publication on social trends in the International Development Decades, 1960-1990".

6. A technical report, Concepts and Methods of Environment Statistics: Human Settlement Statistics, was published. Statistics of the Natural Environment is currently being finalized. An SNA Framework for Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting was developed and served as the basis for the draft Handbook of Environmental Accounting mentioned above.

7. Three expert group meetings on SNA co-ordination and one expert group meeting on the reconciliation of SNA and MPS standards on national accounting were held. In addition all five United Nations regional commissions held regional meetings on the SNA with the co-operation of the Statistical Office of the United Nations and other member organizations of the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on National Accounts. Two expert group meetings on ICP methodology were held jointly with OECD and EUROSTAT. An interregional workshop on external trade statistics was held. Regional workshops were organized in Lusaka and Ouagadougou on methods of collecting and analysing statistics on women in the informal sector and their contribution to national product (with INSTRAW). The 1989 International Workshop on Population Data Bases and Related Topics was organized in Voorburg, Netherlands. Several workshops on economic topics were jointly carried out with the regional commissions and ILO to inform countries on new international standards for the measurement of the economically active population and revised industrial and occupational classifications. Reports have been issued on each of the expert groups and regional meetings.

(b) Subprogrammes 2-6. Application of advanced technology in the collection, processing and dissemination of statistics and compilation and dissemination of economic and social statistics

8. The regular recurrent compilations were issued or submitted for printing in national accounts (main aggregates and detailed tables and analysis of main aggregates), industrial statistics (general industrial statistics and commodity production statistics), international trade statistics (trade by country and trade by commodity: commodity matrix tables), commodity trade statistics series D, energy statistics and demographic statistics. Statistical Yearbook, World Statistics in Brief (United Nations Statistical Pocketbook), Monthly Bulletin of Statistics and Population and Vital Statistics Report (quarterly) were also issued. In addition, computer tapes, tabulations, microfiches and other types of information were provided to users in response to ad hoc requests in various fields of statistics.

9. Special compilations were issued on indicators on the situation of women and world comparisons of purchasing power and real product. The Disability Statistics Data Base (DISTAT) and the Women's Indicators and Statistics Data Base (WISTAT) were issued on microcomputer diskettes.

(c) Subprogramme 7. Co-ordination of international statistical programmes

10. Initiatives were further developed for the co-ordination of ad hoc requests to member States for statistics by non-statistical units of international organizations by most organizations establishing internal mechanisms for advance review of such requests. New mechanisms were increasingly used for accelerating statistical development in certain fields while ensuring co-ordination (for details, see E/CN.3/1991/2, para. 85). In addition to the co-ordination reported in the various documents before the Commission on individual subjects, including the report of the Statistical Commission Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Co-ordination, the Administrative Committee on Co-ordination (ACC) Sub-Committee on Statistical Activities, whose primary objective is the co-ordination of international statistical work, met once each year. A number of intersecretariat working groups in specialized fields of statistics held one or more meetings, including the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on the System of National Accounts and the Inter-Secretariat Working Group on the International Comparison Programme. In 1989, the Statistical Office Newsletter was reinstated after a three-year hiatus.

2. Activities cancelled

11. During the biennium, several activities were cancelled due to the continuing financial crisis, which resulted in the loss of human resources, planned consultancies and extrabudgetary resources and necessitated the redeployment of staff to higher priority areas in order to complete those activities.

12. Under subprogramme 1, National Practices in Compiling External Trade Statistics; International Standard Definitions of Transport Statistics; Handbook for Compiling and Processing Maritime Trade Statistics; Use of Household Surveys to Collect Statistics and Indicators on Levels of Living and Patterns of Consumption; and Revised Survey of Environment Statistics were cancelled.

13. Handbook of National Accounting: Comparisons of the System of National Accounts (SNA) and the System of Balances of the National Economy (MPS): Conceptual Relationships was cancelled due to obsolescence. Another national accounting handbook, External Transactions, was cancelled. However, the Statistical Office will instead contribute to a compilation guide that is being prepared in conjunction with the IMF Balance of Payments (BOP) Manual.

14. Under subprogrammes 3-6, Results of Quantitative Comparisons of Gross Domestic Product (GNP) and Net Material Product (NMP); Construction Statistics Yearbook (15th and 17th editions); and Compendium of Immigrant Stock Data were cancelled.

3. Activities deferred or modified significantly

15. Under subprogramme 1, Handbook on National Accounting: Household Sector Accounts and Income Distribution was postponed due to reallocation of funds to other, higher priority, areas. A report on the collection availability and use of service statistics was postponed to 1991. Handbook for Statistical Programmes for Household and Small-scale Industries, Handbook of Vital Statistics Methods (vol. I) and Commodity Indexes to the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC) Rev. 3, (vols. I and II) were delayed due to extended vacancies in posts and deployment of staff to other priority areas. International Seaborne Trade Statistics Yearbook was suspended due to lack of extrabudgetary funds and pending the allocation of regular budget resources to continue this activity. Work on goods loaded and unloaded in international sea-borne shipping is being done in collaboration with UNCTAD. Handbook for Statistics and Indicators on Housing was postponed due to unavailability of expected extrabudgetary resources. The publication Emerging Issues in Population and Housing Censuses and Their Implications for National Censuses is being reformulated to reflect experience gained in the 1980 census round and will be retitled Training Methods: A Technical Report. Compendium of Statistics and Indicators on Women's Participation and Production in the Informal Sector was postponed to 1990. Methods of Compiling and Analysing Statistics and Indicators on Disabled Persons and Selection and Use of Statistical Indicators on the Situation of Disabled Persons were combined into one publication, Compendium of Disability Statistics.

16. Under subprogrammes 2-6, World Programme of Industrial Statistics was delayed due to diversion of resources to perform unanticipated functions to accommodate UNIDO's needs on accession to specialized agency status. Methods of Compiling United Nations Price Indexes for External Trade was deferred to 1990. Compendium of Human Settlement Statistics has been postponed and resources assigned to higher priority work.

B. Department of Technical Co-operation for Development

17. Technical co-operation projects in statistics delivered during the period 1988-1989 amounted to $50.7 million and the amount budgeted for 1990 is $31.4 million. The total number of projects relating to the above expenditure was 235 in 102 countries - 112 projects in demographic statistics/population census, 56 in statistical organization/multisector statistics, 12 in economic statistics, 27 in vital statistics, and 28 in data processing.

18. Forty-five countries are participating in the National Household Survey Capability Programme (NHSCP). Fifteen countries (Algeria, Angola, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Swaziland, the United Republic of Tanzania, Fiji, Bolivia, Cuba, Ecuador, Jamaica, Panama) joined the programmes in 1989-1990. A total of $15.8 million additional in external funding support has been committed for survey programmes in the participating countries in this period. Consultations for external funding for a further five countries - all new prospective participants - are nearing finalization.

19. The Central Co-ordinating Unit (CCU) of NHSCP has produced the June and December 1989 and June 1990 issues of the NHSCP Reporter and published three technical studies, "Assessing the nutritional status of young children"; "Literacy through household surveys"; and "Household income and expenditure surveys". Work on the compilation of a further six technical studies is in an advanced stage of finalization. These include the following: "Sampling errors in national household surveys"; "Guidelines for measuring health through household surveys"; "Sampling for rare and elusive populations in household surveys"; "Surveys on household consumption of energy"; "Methodology of household surveys of agriculture in Africa" and "Surveys of household economic activities: a technical study".

C. Economic Commission for Europe

20. Work in the field of economic statistics continued to focus on the revision of the System of National Accounts (SNA), links between the SNA and the MPS, and international comparisons of macro-economic data and purchasing power parities. In addition, the Conference of European Statisticians paid increasing attention to new areas of work (i.e., statistics of services). The Conference participated in the Working Party on Transport Statistics and the Working Party on Engineering Industries and Automation.

21. In the field of social and demographic statistics, the 1985 and 1986 origin/destination matrices for the flow of migrants between ECE countries were published. A special publication containing the papers, which were considered at the 1989 ECE/INSTRAW Joint Meeting on Statistics of Women, is to be published jointly by ECE and INSTRAW.

22. In the field of environment statistics, the Conference finalized work on two ECE standard statistical classifications: water use and land use. The classification of ambient air quality is ready for final approval. In addition, the draft waste classification was revised, a new draft classification of

ecological fresh-water quality was prepared, and a draft structure for statistics on economic aspects of environmental protection was established.

23. The list of ECE/UNDP Statistical Computing Project, Phase 2 (SCP-2), outputs has been disseminated to all countries participating in the Project and the other regional commissions, and finalization of all scheduled outputs is expected by the end of 1990.

24. The ECE statistical bulletins have been issued regularly in the fields of energy, transport, housing, road traffic accidents, steel, timber, trade in engineering and chemical products, and on short-term economic indicators. A computerized data base was started during 1988/89 and is being offered for on-line access to statistical offices of ECE member countries and international organizations.

D. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

1. Major achievements, including new activities

25. A total of 90 advisory missions were carried out during the period January 1988 to December 1989. The areas covered by technical assistance were statistical infrastructure development, household surveys, energy statistics, population censuses and surveys, national accounts and data processing.

26. The following meetings were held during 1988: Expert Group Meeting on Computerized Information Systems for Governments; ESCAP/SIAP Advanced Course on Statistics Related to Poverty, Inequality and Basic Needs; ESCAP/SIAP Advanced Course on Planning, Implementing and Evaluating Agricultural Census; Pacific Seminar on Social and Related Statistics; Working Group on Software Packages for Processing Census and Survey Data; Working Group on Statistical Experts; and ESCAP/SIAP Seminar on Improving Timeliness and Quality of Statistics; and during 1989: ESCAP/ILO Seminar on Employment and Unemployment Statistics; UNICEF/ESCAP Expert Consultation on Social Statistics and Indicators for Children and Women; Workshop on Computer-assisted Coding; Seminar on Transport Statistics; ESCAP/SIAP Advanced Course on Projections for Social Development and Economic Planning; ESCAP/SIAP Seminar on Managing National Statistical Services in the 1990s; ESCAP Committee on Developing Planning and Statistics; ESCAP/SIAP Advanced Course on Statistics on the Informal Sector; and UNICEF/ESCAP Training Workshops on Social Indicators for Children and Women in the Asia/Pacific Region.

27. Three training courses related to the National Household Survey Capability Programme (NHSCP) were held: one on sampling and household survey methodology, one on electronic data processing, and one on the training of trainers in sampling and household survey methodology.

28. The following technical reports were published: Statistical Software Packages for Processing Censuses and Surveys: A Brief Guide to Present Availability and Expected Future Developments; ESCAP Conferences for Regional Statisticians; Manual on Training of Statisticians; and Censuses of Population and Housing in Asia and the Pacific: Towards the 1990 Round. In addition, the twenty-fourth report on sample surveys in the ESCAP region was produced, and seven issues of the Statistical Newsletter were published.

29. The following publications have been released regularly: Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific (annual); Statistical Indicators for Asia and the Pacific (quarterly); Foreign Trade Statistics of Asia and the Pacific (annual); and Asia/Pacific in Figures (annual). Work started on the establishment of a network of data bases within the secretariat and the conversion of the Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific and Asia/Pacific in Figures to a microcomputer-based data base format using dBase IV and LOTUS 1-2-3.

2. Activities cancelled or postponed

30. A seminar on the design and evaluation of household sample surveys was postponed to 1990. A seminar on human settlement statistics was cancelled due to lack of resources. A seminar on the revision of the System of National Accounts was postponed to 1990, awaiting further progress in the work on the revision of SNA by the experts involved.

E. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

31. Within the framework of the project "Statistics for the development of Latin America and the Caribbean", two seminars were held: "Entering and editing statistical data" and "Data bases and electronic dissemination". The regional project "Support to preparatory activities related to the design, preparation and implementation of the 1990 round of population and housing censuses in Latin America and the Caribbean" was undertaken with financial support from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). In the framework of the project, the following seminars were held: "Management organization and strategy of a census"; "Cartography"; "Contents and design of the census schedule"; "The use of sampling in the preparatory phases and the utilization of census data"; "Computerized systems for users access to census information"; and "Training personnel for activities in the field".

32. Among recurrent publications, [illegible]ion should be made of the 1988 and 1989 editions of the Statistical Yearbook [illegible]r Latin America and the Caribbean, which includes new statistical areas. Delivery to users has been significantly shortened, to February of 1989 and 1990. Progress has been made, as well, in the coverage and accuracy of the Preliminary Overview of the Latin American Economy (1988-1989).

33. With regard to technical co-operation at the national level, ECLAC acted as executing agency in projects in Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras and Venezuela with the financial support of various international and national organizations. Approximately 55 consultancy missions were carried out by experts of the region.

34. Six reports were issued in the framework of the project "Support to preparatory activities related to the design, preparation and implementation of the 1990 round of population and housing censuses in Latin America and the Caribbean". Other reports covered topics such as national accounts; co-ordination of national statistics; improvement of the statistics of services; meeting of directors of statistics of the Americas; and economic censuses and economic units registry.

35. As a reply to the high demands for training in the statistical field, ECLAC delivered courses on methods and generalized software for statistical data processing; entering and editing statistical data; data bases and electronic dissemination; transport statistics; national accounts; industrial statistics; and organization of the national statistical system.

F. Economic Commission for Africa

1. Major achievements, including new activities

36. In the field of statistical development, the following activities were carried out:

(a) Servicing of the sixth session of the Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians and Demographers. The most important feature of this session of the Joint Conference was the adoption of the Plan of Action for Statistical Development in Africa in the 1990s;

(b) Organization of the following meetings: sixth meeting of Directors of Centres Participating in STPA; training seminar on the use of software packages in statistical computing for French-speaking government statisticians and planners;

(c) Twenty-five missions were carried out: 19 in the field of statistical training and six on the assessment of national statistical capacities;

(d) The following publications were issued: STPA News (four issues); Directory of STPA and Associate Centres (third edition), Directory of Non-STPA Centres (third edition); Guide Syllabus for Middle-level Personnel in Statistics: English-speaking Countries (first revision); Programme type pour la formation des cadres moyens en statistique: pays francophones (première revision) and Creating and Strengthening a Statistics Teaching Group (English and French versions).

37. In the area of economic statistics the following activities were undertaken:

(a) About 38 advisory missions were fielded in ECA member States to develop basic economic statistics;

(b) An intergovernmental seminar on the Review of the United Nations System of National Accounts (SNA) was organized;

(c) The following publications on external trade statistics were finalized and sent for printing: Foreign Trade Statistics for Africa (summary tables), series C, Nos. 8 and 9, and series A (direction of trade), Nos. 31 and 32;

(d) The 1987 African Socio-Economic Indicators, the 1987 African Statistical Yearbook, and the Statistical Information Bulletin for Africa No. 20 were also finalized and sent for printing.

38. Finally, in the field of censuses and surveys, about 151 advisory missions were undertaken during the period under reference. The following meetings, seminars and workshops were organized: Sub-regional workshop on census cartography for English-speaking East and southern African countries; Sub-regional workshop on census cartography for French-speaking West African countries; Working group on household surveys; Bilingual working group on migration statistics in Africa; Training workshop on economic activity topics in population censuses.

2. Activities cancelled or postponed

39. The Intergovernmental Working Group on Processing of Census, Civil Registration and Sample Survey Data was terminated due to lack of funds. The Working Group on Improvement of Data on Small-scale and Household Industries, the Workshops on environment statistics (one for English-speaking countries and one for French-speaking countries), and the training seminar on international trade statistics for English-speaking African countries could not be organized because the extrabudgetary resources expected could not be secured. They were postponed to the biennium 1990-1991. A number of activities relating to computer print-outs, technical publications and advisory missions were also cancelled owing to the staff situation in the Secretariat during the period under review and the resulting lack of funds.

G. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

40. The following publications were issued:

(a) Statistical Abstract of the Region of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), 1988 and 1989 issues;

(b) National Accounts Studies, 1988 and 1989 issues;

(c) Prices and Financial Statistics in the ESCWA Region, 1988 and 1989 issues;

(d) External Trade Bulletin of the ESCWA Region, 1988 issue;

(e) Unified Arab Statistical Abstract, first and second issues, in co-operation with the League of Arab States;

(f) National Accounts at Constant Prices, technical study, 1989;

(g) Compendium of Social Statistics, second issue, 1989.

41. ESCWA also organized the third Meeting of Heads of Central Statistical Organizations in the ESCWA region, Baghdad, 28 February-2 March 1989; conducted an Advanced Training Workshop on the Organization and Administration of Population and Housing Census, Amman, 10-29 June 1989; contributed, within the regional household survey project, to four local seminars organized, respectively, by the Syrian Central Bureau of Statistics (July 1988), the Palestinian Bureau of Statistics (April 1989) and the Jordanian Department of Statistics (April and August 1989); organized, in co-operation with the Women's Programme in ESCWA, a meeting of the Working Group on Developing Indicators and Statistics on Arab Women, Cairo, 15-19 October 1989; participated in the annual intergovernmental meetings of the Statistical Committees of the Council for Arab Economic Unity, the Standing Statistical Committee of the League of Arab States and the Board of Directors of the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics; and provided statistical backstopping to technical assistance activity in national accounts and economic statistics, population statistics and data processing of household surveys.

H. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

42. The following publications were issued: 1988 and 1989 editions of the Supplement to the Handbook of International Trade and Development Statistics; the 1986 and 1987 editions (second issue) of Yearbook of International Commodity Statistics; Monthly Commodity Price Bulletin and the Tungsten Bulletin. A Statistical Pocketbook was published to coincide with the twenty-fifth anniversary of UNCTAD, as well as a supplement (1970-1989) to the Monthly Commodity Price Bulletin.

43. Statistical annexes, containing detailed statistics on flows of financial resources from the member States of the Organization of Petroleum-exporting Countries (OPEC) to developing countries for the period 1987 and 1988 were prepared for the reports on Financial Solidarity for Development.

44. Statistical and computing support was provided to the substantive divisions of UNCTAD and its committees. An Economic Time Series Data Bank (ETS) has been developed to provide a framework for storing, in a standardized manner, machine-readable data available to UNCTAD to permit statistical and economic analysis to be carried out in an efficient and effective manner. ETS has been developed in-house as well as a table-generating programme for accessing the standardized data and preparing a wide variety of reports. In addition interfaces have been written to enable economists and statisticians to use the data in ETS as direct input to standard econometric and statistical computing packages. Work continued on the establishment in UNCTAD, of a data base comprising statistics on production, trade and employment in services.

45. UNCTAD has developed a trade information system on trade control measures of the developing countries. The data base provides a computerized link between foreign trade statistics at the country and product level and the corresponding

tariffs, para-tariffs and non-tariff measures, as well as preferential trading arrangements affecting trade among developing countries.

I. United Nations Children's Fund

46. Two annual statistical compendia continued to be published during the period: Statistics on Children in UNICEF Assisted Countries; and the statistical section of the The State of the World's Children. UNICEF issued many reports, with statistical components, on various social, economic and demographic topics, as well as statistical assessments of programmes related to children, which involved collaboration with other agencies of the United Nations. Continuing collaboration with the Population Division of the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs has been of considerable help in monitoring the under-five mortality rate by country. A manual for the estimation of child mortality through the use of household surveys has recently been produced by the UNICEF regional office for the Middle East and North Africa. Monitoring immunization - another important indicator of well-being, has been carried out jointly by UNICEF and the World Health Organization. Estimates for this monitoring activity are derived from a combination of household surveys, administrative records and demographic estimates.

47. Drawing on data from the World Health Organization, the Demographic and Health Surveys and the Living Standards Measurement Surveys, the Interagency Food and Nutrition Surveillance programme (IFNS) has been instrumental in the publication of A Global, Regional and Country Assessment of Child Malnutrition. The IFNS programme, in which UNICEF is collaborating with the World Health Organization and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, continues to assist national Governments in obtaining food- and nutrition-related information for policy-making, planning and programme management.

48. Technical assistance to statistical activities in social and demographic subjects in developing countries has continued to be given great importance. This has been in the form of direct support to country activities through UNICEF country offices; interagency technical assistance programmes, such as the National Household Survey Capability Programme; other statistical programmes directed at specific countries, such as the Demographic and Health Surveys; and support to methodological research and studies.

II. SPECIALIZED AGENCIES, INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY AND GENERAL AGREEMENT ON TARIFFS AND TRADE

A. International Labour Organisation

49. The Labour Statistics Convention, 1985 (No. 160), came into force on 24 April 1988 and has now been ratified by 14 countries. Reports on the application of the Convention concerning Statistics of Wages and Hours of Work, 1938 (No. 63), were examined for 11 countries and territories. A questionnaire was sent to countries to collect information on the methods used for compiling statistics of strikes and lock-outs.

50. Major work was done on the Retrospective Year Book of Labour Statistics, 1945-1989, and it is anticipated that it will be completed in 1990. Regular issues of the Bulletin of Labour Statistics continued to appear. The separate edition presenting the results of the ILO October Inquiry included data on occupational wages and hours of work for 80 countries and on retail food prices for 132 countries.

51. Volume II of Statistical Sources and Methods: Employment, Wages and Hours of Work (establishment surveys) was published in French and Spanish, and a revised and expanded edition of Volume III, Economically Active Population, Employment, Unemployment and Hours of Work, was prepared for publication in 1990. A fifth volume, Economically Active Population, Employment and Unemployment (population censuses) was also completed. Volume IV of the Statistical Sources and Methods series, Employment, Unemployment, Wages and Hours of Work (administrative records and related sources), was published in English.

52. The first draft was prepared of a comparative study of employment and unemployment measurement covering 28 countries which takes into account significant differences in national concepts and timing. Technical papers were issued on informal-sector employment, the economic activity of women, absenteeism and experiments in the measurement of economic activity, employment and unemployment in Costa Rica and India (Kerala).

53. Technical advisory missions were undertaken in 12 countries in the fields of labour statistics, labour force surveys and occupation classification, and consultations were also held with the European Community on its use of ISCO-88. Three UNDP-financed technical co-operation projects are operational: one in Uganda on national human resources statistics, one in the United Republic of Tanzania on the development of labour market information, and one in Ecuador on statistical support in the formulation of employment-creation policies. A human resources and labour statistics project was approved and became operational in Ethiopia in 1989.

B. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

1. Major achievements including new activities

54. The World Agricultural Information Centre has been launched. Its objective is to integrate the FAO information system in agriculture, forestry, fisheries and food and to provide on-line access to external users. As a first step, since mid-1988 AGROTEL, an on-line system, has been operational on a trial basis, which allows selected external institutions to interrogate AGROSTAT on-line.

55. The FAO subprogramme, Statistical processing and analysis, has continued to maintain and update world-wide and long-term statistical services on production, trade and utilization of crops, livestock and livestock products, land use, agricultural population and labour force (including projections), agricultural inputs (machinery, fertilizers, pesticides), food supplies, prices, economic account and the periodic world food surveys.

56. Regional supplements to the programme for the 1990 World Census of Agriculture were published in 1989. A manual on sampling was also issued. Four regional training courses were conducted on the Census of Agriculture, of which three were in Africa. Sessions of the Asia and the Pacific and African Commission on Agricultural Statistics were held in 1988 and 1989. Studies were carried out on the use of household surveys to collect agricultural statistics in five African countries, and the findings were discussed at the Commonwealth Workshop on the Food Supply Information Systems for Africa. In co-operation with the World Bank, five country studies were carried out, comparing objective and subjective methods of estimating crop areas and yields. Guidelines were published on socio-economic indicators of agrarian reform and rural development. A data bank of statistics on women in agriculture was intitiated in 1989. Four workshops were jointly organized at FAO headquarters during the biennium with the Munich Centre for Advanced Training in Applied Statistics for Developing Countries. These formed part of the Centre's four-month course on strengthening the statistical system for food policies and strategies.

2. Activities cancelled

57. Meetings of two regional statutory bodies for statistics were postponed. Activities have been discontinued on the development of methodologies for constructing agricultural product trade matrices, animal feed balances at the country level, marketing costs and margins, and the use of remote-sensing in estimating land-use statistics. Work was also severely delayed on the analysis of food consumption surveys, the analysis of the 1980 round of the World Census of Agriculture, manuals on the establishment of poverty lines and socio-economic groups, and surveys for collecting statistics on women in agriculture and on food consumption. A number of publications had to be suspended, including long-term series on per capita crop and livestock production and food supplies, 1984-1986 average food balance sheets and long-term series for trade in selected commodities. Manuals on land-use statistics and on agricultural machinery statistics also could not be produced.

C. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

58. The main activities of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in the field of statistics of education were the following:

(a) A revised set of school enrolment and illiteracy projections were established and published, as well as six statistical reports disseminating comparative data at the international level;

(b) Six reference documents for regional and international ministerial conferences and governmental expert meetings on education were produced;

(c) One regional and four national training courses were organized, and with the financial assistance of the Swedish International Development Authority (SIDA), six training seminars on education statistics, which were attended by 542 participants, were conducted;

(d) A statistical computation package for calculating a broad range of educational measures (EDSTATS), developed for microcomputers, was made available to member states.

59. In the area of statistics on science and technology, the following activities were carried out:

(a) The questionnaire on scientific information and documentation (STID) was revised and prepared for field-testing;

(b) Two analytic studies were published, as well as the annual Annotated Accessions List of Studies and Reports in the Field of Science Statistics;

(c) One expert meeting was convened on the methodology for collecting data on organized lifelong training of scientists, engineers and technicians, in which 10 experts participated;

(d) One regional and four national training seminars were held, which were attended by some 190 participants.

60. The principal activities in the area of statistics on culture and communication, were the following:

(a) A manual on the collection of statistics on public financing of cultural activities was finalized in English, French and Spanish;

(b) A case-study on statistics of sports and games and two case studies on the collection of statistical data on private financing of cultural activities were prepared;

(c) A report on the field-testing of the UNESCO Framework for Cultural Statistics (FCS) was prepared;

(d) An expert meeting on statistics and indicators relating to the UNESCO Framework for Cultural Statistics was organized, with the participation of 10 experts;

(e) One regional and four national training courses on culture and communication statistics were organized, with some 160 participants.

61. The UNESCO Statistical Yearbook for 1988 and 1989 was issued, in a trilingual (E/F/S) version. Major texts in the Yearbook were also shown in Arabic and, for the first time, in Russian. The UNESCO Statistical Digest was temporarily discontinued, but it will be re-issued during 1990 in a format that will be more practical for users.

D. International Civil Aviation Organization

62. In addition to the regular activities concerned with the collection, processing and publication of aviation statistics, a major activity during 1988-1989 was the preparation of documentation for the April 1989 session of the ICAO Statistics Division (a representative body of member States), servicing of the Division, and implementation of its recommendations.

63. The Statistics Division reviewed all aspects of the statistical activities of ICAO and made 17 recommendations aimed at enhancing the usefulness and efficiency of these activities. While endorsing the general structure and content of the ICAO statistics programme, the Division emphasized the need for increased availability and timeliness of ICAO statistics and recommended that ICAO should, as a matter of priority, develop a comprehensive programme for increased automation of the collection and analysis of aviation statistics and their transmission to the Organization, aeronautical authorities, airlines, airports and other interested parties. Implementation of the Division's recommendations was begun in 1989 and is likely to be completed by about mid-1991.

64. The thirteenth and fourteenth editions of the ICAO statistical yearbook Civil Aviation Statistics of the World were issued during this period, and preparation of the fifteenth edition was started. In addition, 24 digests of statistics were issued in the different areas of the ICAO statistics programme. Generally, the production of statistical publications continued to be adversely affected by shortage of resources.

65. Regional workshops on aviation statistics were organized for States in the North America/Caribbean region and the Asia/Pacific region. Advice on aviation statistics was provided by regional air transport officers during missions to various countries in their regions.

E. World Health Organization

66. The second report on monitoring progress in implementing the Strategies for Health for All was issued. The regional office for the Western Pacific made all the data in its country health information profiles (CHIP) available on microcomputer. Work on simplifying monitoring and evaluation tools and procedures began with an Interregional Consultation on Indicators and Procedures for the Second Evaluation of the Health for All (HFA) Strategy, held in Brazzaville from 16 to 20 October 1989. The presentation of family planning indicators was the subject of collaboration with the regional office for Africa. An intercountry workshop was held in Mauritius.

67. WHO and the World Bank collaborated in estimates and projections of mortality from selected causes of death for certain countries. In the Americas, epidemiologists and statisticians from the ministry of health in 11 countries collaborated in a research project on the effects on the ranking of leading causes of death of different criteria for grouping causes of death. Based on the results, PAHO plans to construct a new mortality short list.

68. Activities to reinforce the analysis and use of data in health service management were undertaken in India, Kenya, Maldives, Malta, Nepal, and Papua New Guinea. WHO also collaborated with the Government of the Philippines in developing a new health management information system using microcomputers. A health survey workshop was held in the eastern Mediterranean region with the collaboration of the population research unit of the League of Arab States.

69. Two new statistical handbooks were published, Adequacy of Sample Size in Health Studies and Sample Size Determination - A User's Manual. Work started on an atlas of map-linked data bases, which will allow the quick and easy linking of maps and data so as to relate the data to policy and make them intelligible to health planners and decision makers.

70. Proposals for the Tenth Revision of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems (ICD-10) were finalized and submitted to the International Conference for the Tenth Revision of the ICD, held in Geneva from 26 September to 2 October 1989. In a radical departure from previous revisions, ICD-10 proposes an alphanumeric instead of numeric coding system, which will allow for the coding of almost twice as many conditions at the basic three-character level.

71. The French edition of the International Classification of Impairments, Disability and Handicaps (ICIDH) was published in 1988. In collaboration with UNSO, a training workshop on household surveys of disability was held in Malta. WHO is also taking part in the informal network Researchers on Healthy Life Expectancy, which seeks to develop generally accepted indicators of healthy life expectancy.

F. World Bank

72. The World Bank continued its efforts to improve the reporting of external debt statistics by member Governments. Some 30-40 country missions per year were mounted. In addition, the Bank improved estimates of private non-guaranteed and short-term debt not covered by the Bank's Debtor Reporting System.

73. Technical assistance to member countries continued to be a feature of the work of the Bank's data-oriented units. A major review of the functioning of statistical systems in member countries of Sub-Saharan Africa was undertaken. Following up on this study, three country case studies have been launched, with the intention of developing proposals for prototype programmes for countries at different stages of statistical development.

74. The Bank's programme for integrated household surveys under the Living Standards Measurement Study (LSMS) have been launched in a number of additional countries. Social Dimensions of Adjustment (SDA) programmes were extended in scope, and plans are now in place to commence activities in 30 countries of Sub-Saharan Africa. Collaborative arrangements with other international survey programmes, including the NHSCP, were enhanced.

75. The Bank jointly sponsored a workshop with ECE on the statistical issues in the transition economies. The Bank also contributed a paper to the OECD Conference on the Transition Economies on the identification of their statistical priorities and has also launched a major research programme on the methodological issues and comparability of data. A "factbook" on the transition economies is being prepared with the objective of disseminating a range of statistics that are of interest to a variety of users.

76. In collaboration with the Statistical Office, the Bank has carried out case studies whose aim is to test a framework for compiling environmentally adjusted measures of GDP. A paper reviewing national practices in compilation of environmentally adjusted accounts was prepared. Compilation of environmental indicators was pursued, particularly in respect of urban wastes and the use of national resources.

77. Several new publications emphasizing data on social indicators, African economic and social data, and measures of poverty and income distribution were released. The use of CD-ROMs as media for data dissemination was further developed in a joint programme with the IMF. Bank data sets are now being disseminated through the STARS system, an approach utilizing compressed data sets on PC-diskettes with features that permit data manipulation.

78. In the context of the revision of the SNA, the Bank continued to play an active role through participation in the Inter-Secretariat Group and the Expert Group. The needs of developing countries and of transition economies in adapting the SNA to their circumstances have featured in the Bank's contributions to the revision.

G. International Monetary Fund

79. IMF continued to give priority to the development and maintenance of its large-scale data base of internationally comparable economic statistics. The Fund's computerized data base system, the Economic Information System (EIS), has progressively replaced the Data Fund System.

80. The Fund has continued to support the training of national officials in statistical methodology and practices through the IMF Institute. Recently the Bureau of Statistics has initiated a new programme of technical co-operation by means of long-term assignment of technical experts to member countries.

81. IMF sponsored three specially convened expert group meetings to discuss external sector issues, public sector accounts, and financial flows and balances in relation to revision of the System of National Accounts (SNA). The Fund has recently commenced the process of revising its Balance of Payments Manual and of developing further its work on the methodology of monetary statistics, with a view to preparing a guide to money and banking statistics. A similar effort is also continuing in the area of government finance statistics.

82. In December 1989 the Fund established an international Working Party on the Measurement of International Flows to study measurement issues underlying the coverage of international capital flows, and address concerns of world asymmetries in the principal components of the capital account of the balance of payments. The final report of the Working Party is to be submitted to the Fund's Executive Board by the end of 1991. The study, which is seen as a follow-up to the study on the statistical discrepancy in world current account balances (Esteva Report), will review the procedures and practices (at the national level) underlying the measurement of capital flows and identify measures needed to improve data in this area.

83. The International Working Group on External Debt Statistics, including representatives of IMF, met in June 1989 to discuss its future work programme. The joint publication, External Debt: Definition, Statistical Coverage and Methodology, issued in March 1988, dealt with stock data and left several issues, including questions concerning flow data, for future work. During this meeting it was decided to prepare a second publication that would deal with the possible reconciliation of stock and flow data and present the debt data in a balance of payments framework.

H. Universal Postal Union

84. Statistical activities of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) have the following broad objectives:

(a) To record systematically data on postal traffic volumes so as to deduce general trends and make extrapolations for the future;

(b) To collect information on staffing patterns and volumes, financial operating performance, performance of the postal financial services, technical means etc. of UPU member countries;

(c) To determine and quantify the level of services available to the public;

(d) To determine the evolution of the postal services in general over a period of time;

(e) To promote the use of statistics by postal administrations as an effective instrument for managing and planning their services;

(f) To determine the direction and volume of technical assistance to UPU member countries.

85. Data is collected by means of a questionnaire which is circulated annually. This data is then examined for plausibility and consistency, and is subsequently entered in the computer where it is subjected to additional checks for consistency. Corrections communicated are also incorporated. This information is then published in a loose-leaf binder entitled Statistique des services postaux (Postal Services Statistical Yearbook), which is then circulated among member countries and also made available on demand to other interested parties. Editions

pertaining to data for the years 1986 and 1987 were published in 1988 and 1989, and the edition containing 1988 statistics was published in April 1990.

86. Statistics were first computerized in 1982 when UPU acquired a computer, and information from 1964 onwards has been stored on disk. This information is used to make up reports at prescribed intervals.

87. The most recent five-year report on the development of the postal services was prepared for the information of the UPU Congress, held in Washington, D.C., in November/December 1989. This will be supplemented by a three-year report covering the period 1987-1989, which is scheduled for publication in 1991.

I. World Intellectual Property Organization

88. A new, more detailed breakdown of the statistical data collected has now been made, permitting - in particular, the assessment of the impact of international and regional treaties. The information is published in two volumes - one relating to patents and similar industrial property rights, and the other to trade marks and service marks, industrial designs, new varieties of plants and micro-organisms.

J. United Nations Industrial Development Organization

89. The following publications were issued: Handbook of Industrial Statistics (1988); Africa in Figures (1988); The Largest Establishments in China and Thailand: An Analysis of Industrial Statistics (1989); International Specialization and Trade in Manufactures (1989); An Inventory of Industrial Statistics: UNIDO Data Base, 1989 (1989).

90. The series of lectures on industrial statistics to the Institute for Social Studies, The Hague, was continued in 1988 and 1989. A number of missions in connection with technical assistance projects on industrial statistics were undertaken (Ethiopia, Kenya, Oman) and contacts maintained with the International Statistics Institute and United Nations organizations in order to facilitate data exchange. The UNIDO data base was extended to include industrial statistics at a more detailed level.

91. Further technical assistance projects were launched to implement the UNIDO-developed software package for the processing of industrial statistics (NISP), and the organization has also started technical assistance projects in the field of statistical process control (Brazil, Hungary).

K. International Atomic Energy Agency

92. The Agency publishes annually a comprehensive overview report entitled Nuclear Power: Status and Trends, based in particular on data in the Agency's Energy and Economic Data Bank (EEDB) and the Power Reactor Information System (PRIS). A booklet entitled "Energy electricity and nuclear power estimates for the period up

to 2005" (Reference Data Series No. 1) is published annually, using data from EEDB and PRIS and results of the Agency and other international demand projections.

93. The Agency co-operates with industrialized member States and with other international organizations in the use of methodologies for forecasting electricity demand in developing countries as a basis for studying the role of nuclear power. Within this context, a technical committee on energy and nuclear power planning (United Nations and other international organization approaches) meets annually.

L. General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade

94. Under the Uruguay Round of trade negotiations, trade negotiations files were developed to assist in the evaluation of tariff proposals. They comprise two basic components: the tariff schedule, and the import statistics. Files have been prepared at the tariff line level for countries covering close to 95 per cent of GATT-member trade. The resulting information is only available to contracting parties which meet certain criteria.

95. Another recent development is the GATT Data Base on International Trade in Services, using information from the International Monetary Fund, OECD, the International Labour Office and the Statistical Office (United Nations Secretariat) and national sources. The main components are country data on international trade in goods and services, domestic production and employment for the years 1965, 1970, 1975 and 1980-1988, where available.

96. Concurrently, the development of the Integrated Data Base is proceeding. It will contain tariff line data on imports, tariffs and quantitative restrictions. The tariff lines will be based on the Harmonized System. Over time, it is expected that the Integrated Data Base will be expanded to include exports and other categories of non-tariff measures on which information is supplied by contracting parties.

97. Ongoing statistical activities include the collection of trade, production, consumption and price statistics under the various arrangements negotiated under the auspices of the GATT (textiles, dairy products, bovine meat, civil aircraft, government procurement); data preparation for economic research projects and the annual report on international trade.

III. OTHER INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

World Tourism Organization

98. The following statistical publications were issued: Yearbook of Tourism Statistics (1988 and 1989 editions); Compendium of Tourism Statistics (1988 and 1989 editions); and, quarterly, Current Travel and Tourism Indicators (1988, 1989 and first 1990 editions). Emphasis was placed on the improvement of the coverage, timeliness, comparability and consistency of data. WTO has also started the creation of a computerized data base on tourism statistics.

99. In relation to the development of concepts and methods, the activities of WTO during the biennial period 1988-1989 were devoted mainly to the completion of the "Guidelines for tourism statistics" and the development of a Standard International Classification of Tourism Statistics (SICTA) within the framework of the revision of the International Standard Industrial Classification (ISIC) of the United Nations. A set of guidelines were also prepared on the harmonization of household surveys on pleasure and holiday travel.

100. Various missions on tourism statistics were carried out in Turkey, Uruguay, Cape Verde, United Republic of Tanzania and Mauritania in pursuance of the organization's programme of technical assistance activities. A workshop on tourism statistics was organized in Lusaka (Zambia) from 27 to 30 November 1989 as part of the first WTO/UNDP regional co-operation project in tourism development in eastern and southern Africa.

IV. NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

A. Inter-American Statistical Institute

101. According to the present organization of the Institute, its activities are oriented:

(a) To complement the work carried out by other organizations concerning the development of governmental statistics in the American region;

(b) To strengthen the role of the Institute regarding the academic and professional statistical activities. Emphasis is being placed in its programmes of scientific publications and technical meetings.

102. The Institute co-operates in the operation of the Inter-American Statistical Conference, maintained by the Organization of American States (OAS), and participates in the meetings of Directors of Statistics organized by ECLAC.

103. The Regional Programme for the Development of Household Surveys, developed for several years in close co-operation with OAS, ECLAC and the Statistical Office, had to be discontinued in 1988 because of lack of appropriate funding.

104. The Secretariat organized jointly with FAO, and with the co-operation of the Inter-American Institute for Co-operation on Agriculture (IICA), the third session of the working group on agriculture statistics, held in Santiago, Chile, in March 1990.

105. The Seminars on Statistical Methods initiated in 1987 in Mar del Plata, Argentina, continued, with one held in Santiago, Chile, in 1989 on statistics in quality and productivity improvement; a third, on statistical methods in business and in the actuarial sciences, is being organized, to be held in September 1991 in Mexico.

V. POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

106. The Commission may wish to comment on the work of the various international organizations during the period under review.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1989, Supplement No. 3 (E/1989/21).